

Center for Digital Democracy
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December 3, 2003

Via Electronic Filing

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: CS Docket 98-120

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On December 1, 2003, I met with Catherine Bohigian, legal advisor to the FCC Commissioner Kevin Martin. We urged Commissioner Martin to reject any multi-cast must-carry proposals prior to a rulemaking on public interest obligations for digital commercial broadcasters. The networks and the broadcasting industry must provide commensurate public service if they are to receive what surely will be one of the biggest “give-aways” of publicly-conveyed policy.

We also stated that, in our opinion, without evidence of additional free service to the public in the form of digital programming and applications, it was unlikely the courts would support multi-casting must-carry.

Respectfully,

Jeffrey A. Chester
Executive Director

cc: Catherine Bohigian, Barbara Esbin